

Served: July 13, 2004



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Docket OST-1996-1629

Notice to All Parties

Subject: Informal, Working Group Discussions on International Mail Rates

By notice dated April 26, 2004, the Department called an informal meeting to address international mail rates. The meeting was held on May 26 and attended by representatives of the Postal Service and the carriers. (See items 336 and 337 in this docket for a list of participants.) In response to that meeting, the Postal Service filed a response on June 15 and the Air Transport Association (ATA) on June 29. Both ask for continued meetings, limited to a smaller working group than the initial meeting, and again chaired by the Department. The Postal Service suggested that there be a total of approximately one dozen members to the working group, including four to seven air carrier representatives (not limited to ATA members). The other members would include Postal Service, Department and one military representative. ATA suggested that the Department establish the composition of the working group for the carriers and the terms of reference for the meeting.

We hereby set the first working group meeting, to continue the dialogue on resolving international mail rate proposals. The meeting will be held on July 27, at 10:00 a.m. in room 10118 of the Department of Transportation. As expressed by the Postal Service in its June 21 letter, there was some consensus at the earlier meeting to limit attendees to approximately a dozen total, in the interest of continuity, efficiency, and representation. We will also file notes in the docket to the working group meeting so that the dialogue will be public, and thus provide opportunity for other parties who are not members of the working group to make their positions known. Before the Department acts on any issues, we will use our written show-cause procedures. With regard to ATA's request, it would not be appropriate for the Department to choose the carrier representatives. The carriers and the Postal Service military representative should send a list of attendees to Kevin.Adams@ost.dot.gov.

The Department is located at 400 7th Street, SW, and admittance is through the southwest corner. Kevin Adams will post himself at this corridor starting at 9:30 to enable access past the security checkpoint. Photo identification is required.

By:

**Randall Bennett, Director
Office of Aviation Analysis**

Dated: July 13, 2004

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